White, M. and J.R. Singhurst. 2012. *Cerastium semidecandrum* (Caryophyllaceae) in Texas. Phytoneuron 2012-20: 1–2.
Published 23 February 2012. ISSN 2153 733X

CERASTIUM SEMIDECANDRUM (CARYOPHYLLACEAE) IN TEXAS

MATT WHITE
882 HWY 24
Campbell, Texas 75422

JASON R. SINGHURST
Wildlife Diversity Program
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Austin, Texas 78704

ABSTRACT

Cerastium semidecandrum (Caryophyllaceae) is reported as new to the flora of Texas. This species was collected in both a city park and a vacant lot in Sulphur Springs, Hopkins County, in the northeastern corner of the state.

KEY WORDS: Caryophyllaceae, *Cerastium*, Texas, Hopkins County, adventive

Cerastium semidecandrum L. (Caryophyllaceae; fivestamen chickweed) was recently discovered in the town of Sulphur Springs in Hopkins County of northeast Texas — it has been collected there in Buford Park and in a nearby vacant lot. There are no previous reports of this introduced species in the state.

At the Buford Park site it was growing in full sun in thin to bare patches in the Bermuda grass turf both as scattered lone individuals and in dense patches, where it was locally abundant, often intermixed with the associated species including *Erodium cicutarium*, *Capsella bursa-pastoris*, *Stellaria sp.*, *Soliva pterosperma*, *Veronica persica*, *Lepidium densiflora*, *Lamium amplexicaule*, *Houstonia rosea*, *Sherardia arvensis*, *Krigia* sp., and *Medicago* sp. At the vacant lot, associated species included many of the same species as well as *Erigeron philadelphicus*, *Claytonia virginica*, and *Houstonia pusilla*. *Cerastium semidecandrum* appears to be well established at both of the sites in Sulphur Springs.

Voucher specimens. **USA. Texas.** Hopkins Co.: just S of Connally Street in Buford Park, 33° 08' 17.06" N, 95° 36' 52.06"W, 7 Feb 2012, *M. White s.n* (BAYLU); vacant lot, 250 ft W of intersection of League and Main, Sulphur Springs, 33° 08'02.71 N, 95° 36' 48.81"W, 16 Feb 2012, *M. White s.n.* (BAYLU).

Cerastium semidecandrum is a small, annual species that closely resembles *C. pumilum* but is easily distinguished by the broad, conspicuous, white to translucent bract and sepal margins (Morton 2005; Yatskievych 2006). The plant shown in Figure 1 was just beginning to flower.

This species is native to Eurasia and adventive in North America. According to de Schweinitz (1832) this species arrived on this continent as seed contaminant, although no dates were cited. While Mack and Erneberg (2002) suggested that this assertion reflected "informed opinion" instead of careful documentation, it is clear that the species was early introduced on this continent and is not a recent arrival though it is not possible to say how long it has been established in Texas. It is known from scattered collections throughout many of the states and provinces east of the Great Plains as well as several in the Pacific Northwest (Morton 2005). Due to its inconspicuous and ephemeral nature, it may well be more frequent than is generally known — especially in Texas and in Louisiana and Arkansas, where it has been only sporadically collected (BONAP 2012).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank Joe Jackson, reference librarian at Paris Junior College for help obtaining literature.

LITERATURE CITED

BONAP. 2012. North American Plant Atlas (US county-level species maps). Biota of North America Program, Chapel Hill, NC. <http://www.bonap.org/genera-list.html>

Mack, R.N. and M. Erneberg. 2002. The United States naturalized flora: largely the product of deliberate introductions. Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 89: 176–189.

Morton, J.K. 2005. *Cerastium*. Pp. 74–93, *in*: Flora of North America Editorial Committee (eds.) Flora of North America North of Mexico, Vol. 5. Oxford Univ. Press, New York and Oxford.

Schweinitz, L.D. de. 1832. Remarks on the plants of Europe which have become naturalized in a more or less degree, in the United States. Ann. Lyceum Nat. Hist. New York 3: 148–155.

Yatskievych, G. 2006. Steyermark's Flora of Missouri. Vol. 2. Missouri Botanical Garden Press. St. Louis.

Figure 1. *Cerastium semidecandrum*. Note the very broad, scarious margins of the sepals. Photograph taken at Buford Park in Sulphur Springs, Hopkins Co., Texas, 7 February 2012.